

Lepanthes victorgonzalezii K.W. Holcomb, sp. nov.

Plant 1.625 cm tall, epiphytic, caespitose, roots silver when dry, very thick.

Ramicauls 9.5 mm long, very slender, suberect, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf 13 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, elliptic.

Inflorescence a loose, successively, few-flowered, raceme to 22 mm long produced behind the leaf, flowers resupinate.

Labellum (Lip) 4 mm long, 1 mm wide, pink at the base fading to peach at the apex, bilaminate, blades acutely falcate, basally adpressed to the column, appendix incurved.

Dorsal Sepal 1 cm long, 25 mm wide, 3-veined, gold, triangular, incurved, abruptly constricted into a filiform tail.

Synsepal 1.25 cm long, 50 mm wide, 2-veined, gold suffused with bright pink in the center, deeply concave, connate from the base to the lower quarter, constricted in the middle, abruptly constricted in the lower quarter into two filiform tails that cross each other.

Petals 4.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, bright pink, transversely bilobed, oblong, triangular.

Column 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the anther apical and stigma ventral.

Eponymy: Named in honor of Victor J. Gonzalez, a citizen scientist in San Diego, California.

MEXICO: Without collection data. K.W. Holcomb 18313 (*Holotype*: *GEO*),

Lepanthes victorgonzalezii is similar to *Lepanthes johnsonii* (Ames 1923). However, *L. victorgonzalezii* is easily distinguished by its deeply concave lateral sepals with long sepaline tails that cross over each other. The flowers of this tiny, elegant species resemble tiny ballerinas dancing en pointe.

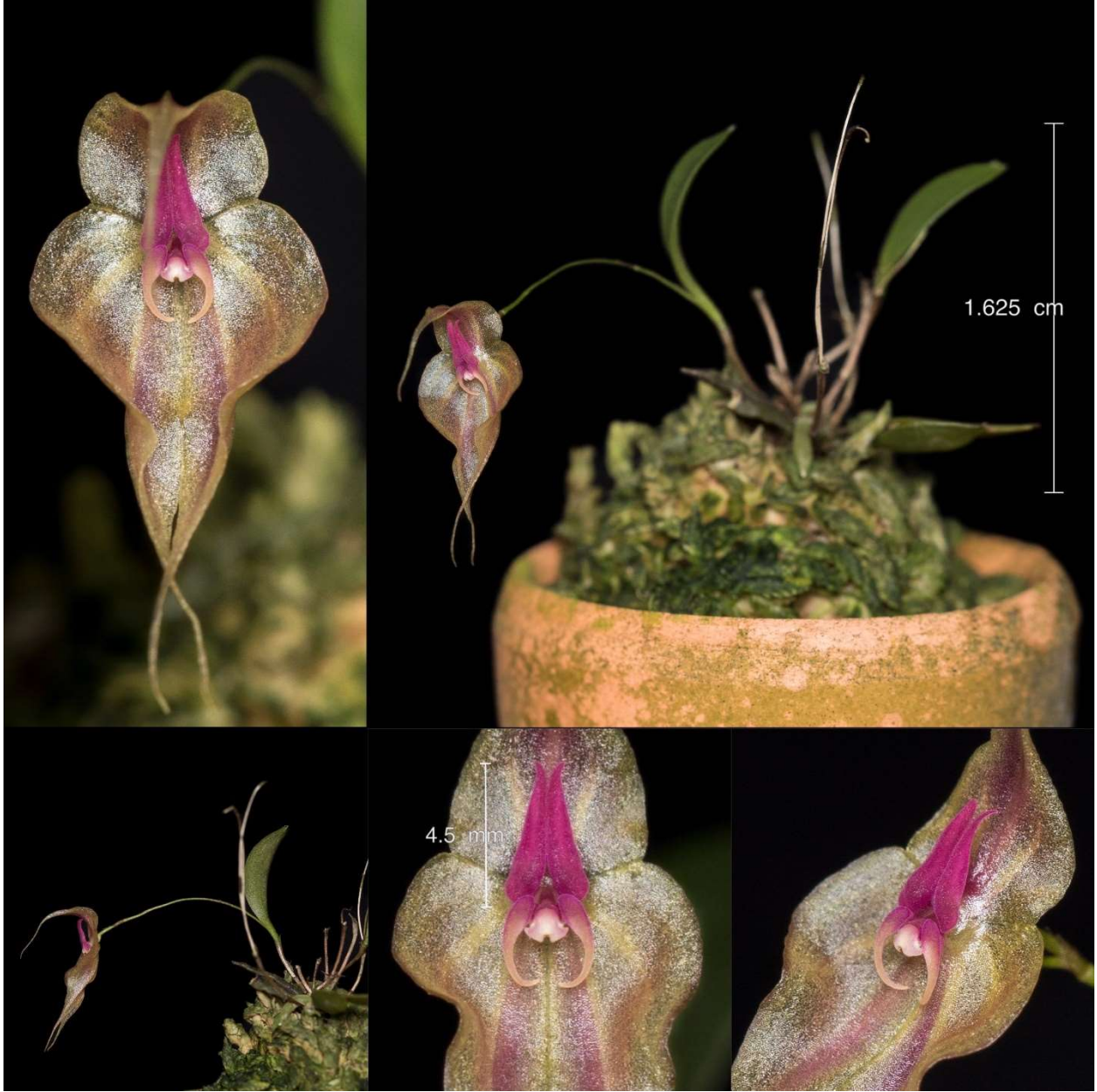


Fig. 1. *Lepanthes victorgonzalezii*
Photos of the plant used to prepare the holotype material.